

Escape From Slavery by Doreen Rappaport

(chapter book)

Barefoot, Escape on the Underground Railroad by
Pamela Duncan Edwards, illustrated by Henry Cole

Almost to Freedom by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson,
illustrations by Colin Bootman

Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter

Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine, illustrated by Kadir
Nelson

The Patchwork Path by Bettye Stroud, illustrated by Erin
Susanne Bennett

Minty by Alan Shroeder, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Vocabulary

bounty hunter

master

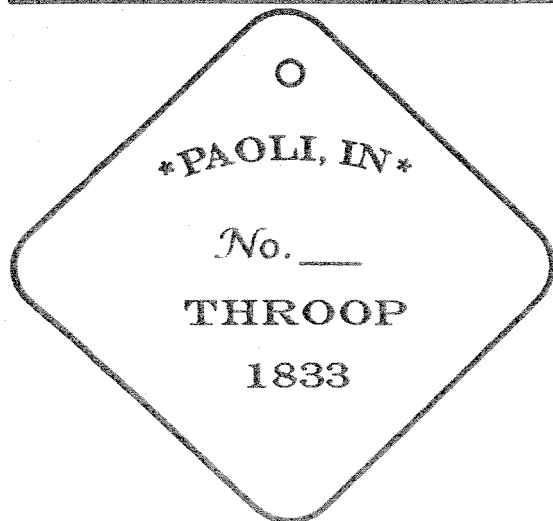
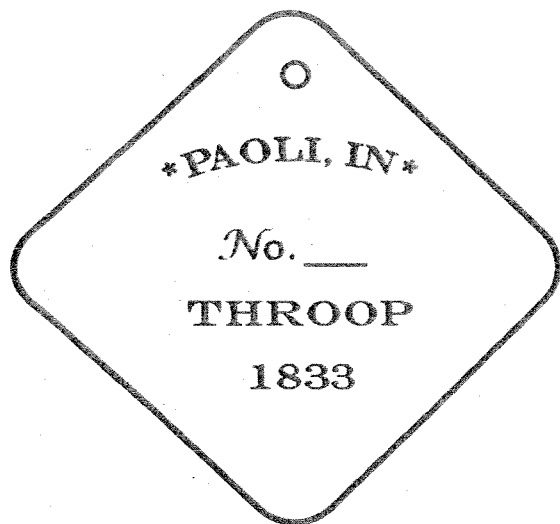
plantation

station

conductor

merchant

Underground Railroad



Americans used slaves for 200 years before California became a state. Slaves were needed to work on the cotton and tobacco plantations. The first black slaves were brought to our country in 1617.

There was a time when the North had slaves. However, they gave up slaves due to the climate and type of work in the North not being fit for slaves. In 1790 the North had about 40,000 slaves while the South had about 65,000. By 1850 the number of slaves in the South had grown to more than 3,000,000. At this time the North had only about 250 slaves.

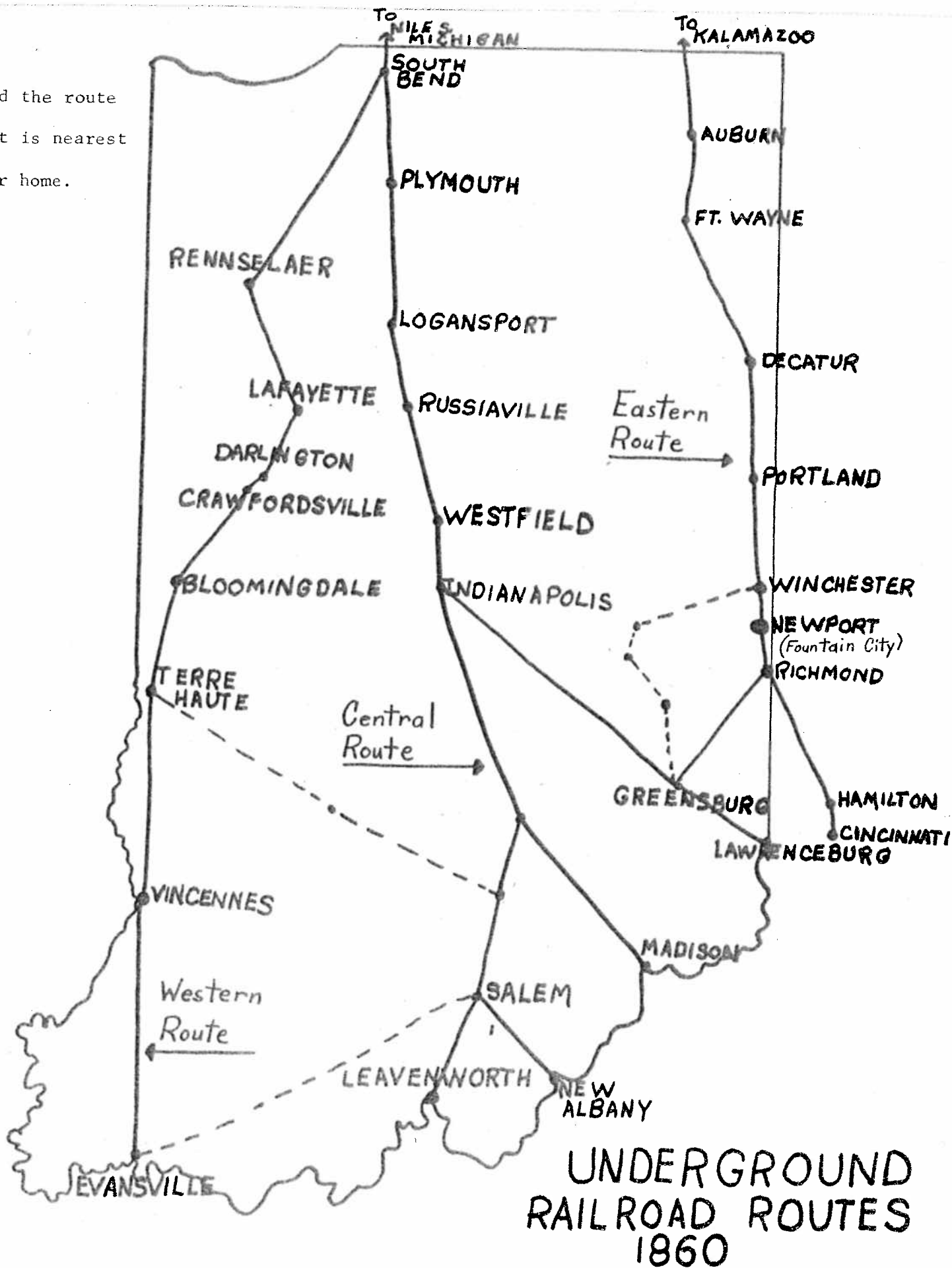
Only three hundred and fifty thousand out of six million Southerners owned slaves. Fewer than two thousand of the Southerners had one hundred or more slaves. Most slave owners had four or less slaves.

Slaves were treated very differently from one plantation to the next. Some slaves worked inside the home. They cooked, cleaned, and cared for the children of the white family. Most slaves worked in the fields. They worked a long day from sunrise to after sunset. Some slaves worked in factories in big cities such as Atlanta and New Orleans. These slaves were not paid for their work. Slaves lived in dirt floored huts.

Slave rebellions worried slave owners. In 1790 a good field hand was worth about \$300. In 1860 they were worth \$2000. Guards rode the roads in the South each night looking for runaway slaves.

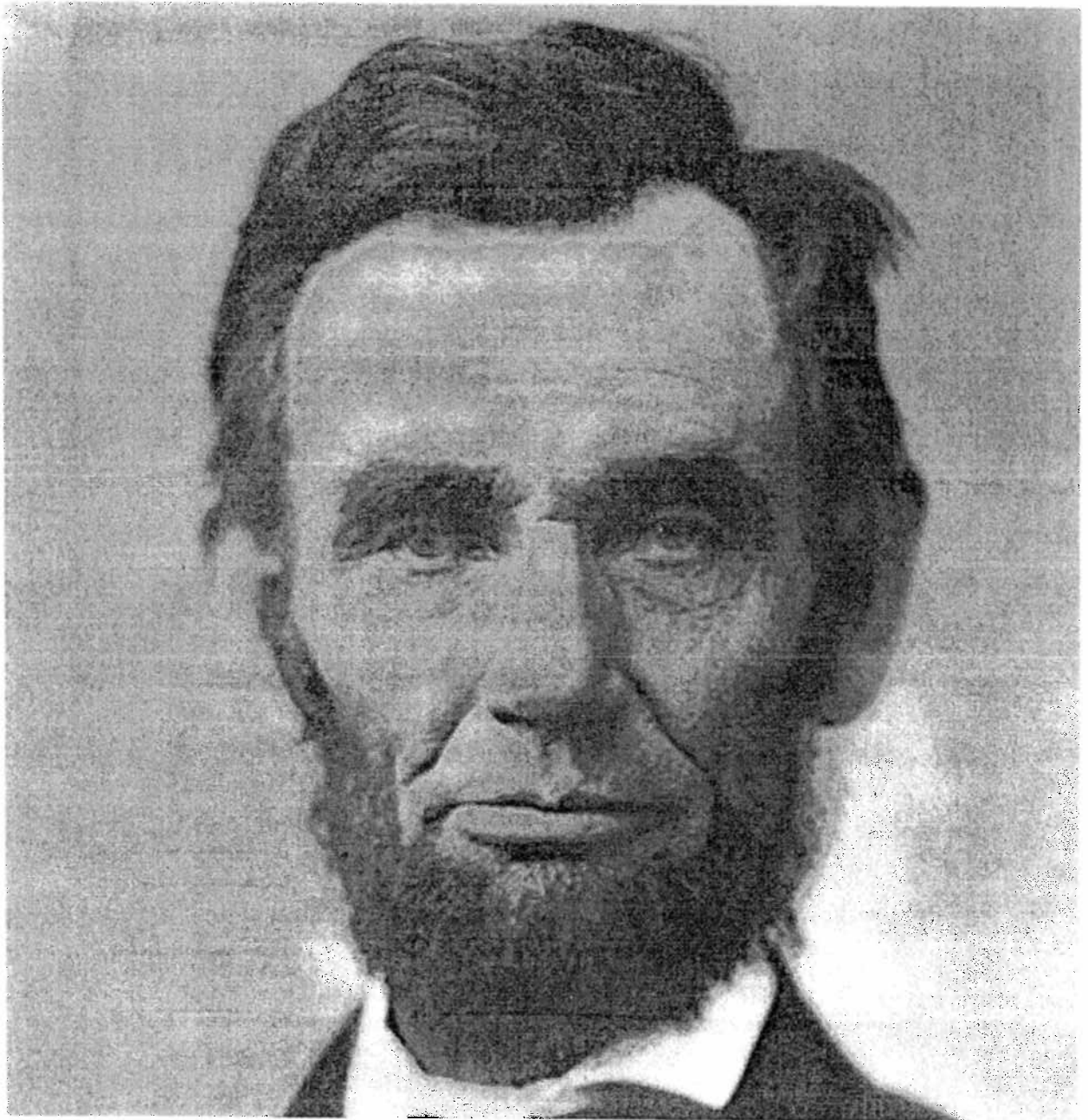
It is time for you to begin your journey and follow the drinking gourd. You must travel quietly together. Follow the signs marking the way. You will meet abolitionists on your journey who will help you seek your destination. An abolitionist was a person who wanted to do away with slavery. In the 1830's abolitionists began to speak out in public. Beware of the bounty hunters as they may capture you and return you to your owner. Hide your slave tags and keep your heads down. It is important to not draw attention to yourself. Remember to follow the drinking gourd.

Find the route
that is nearest
your home.



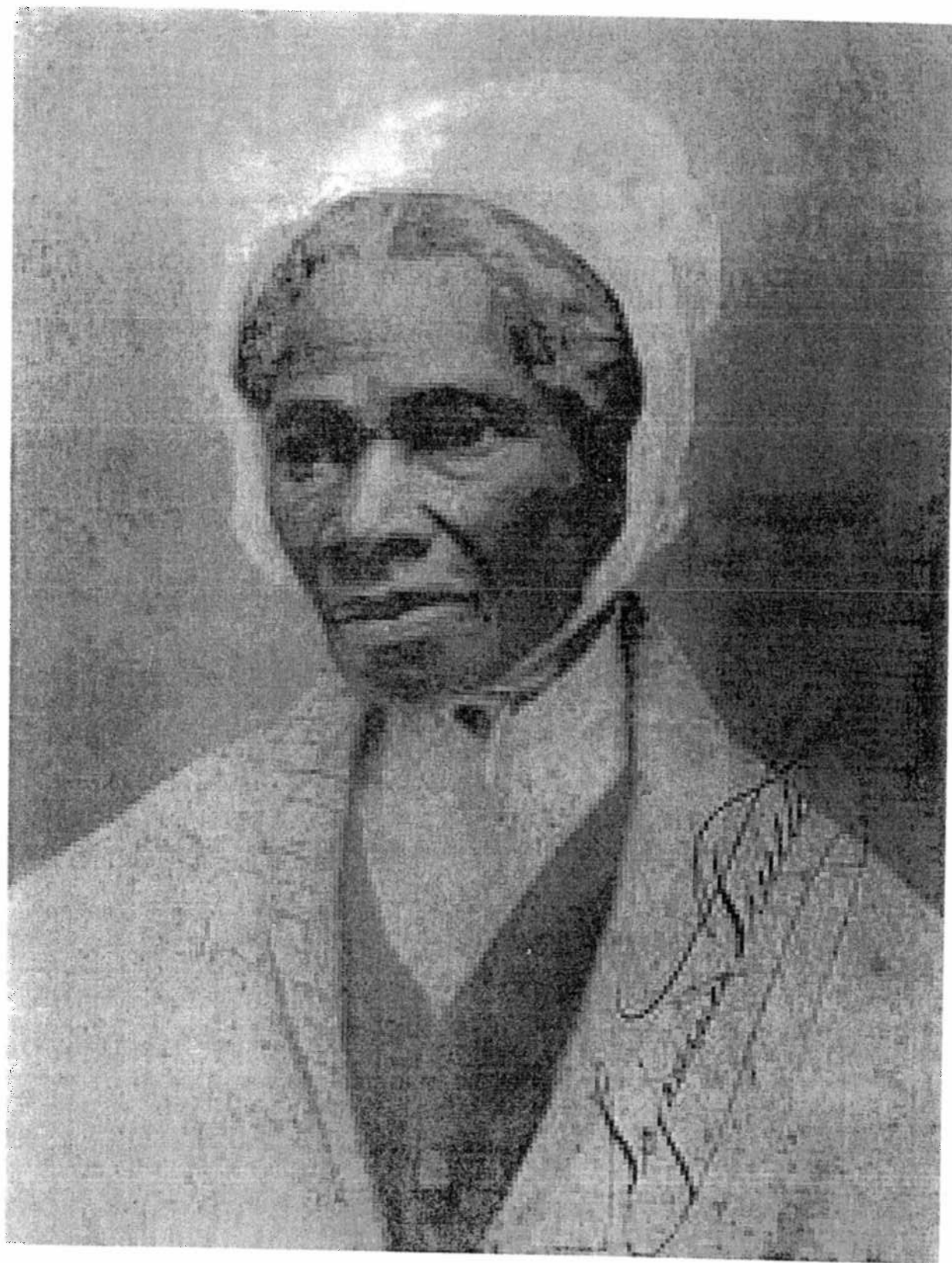
Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. When he was seven he went to Indiana. He attended a real school for only a year. Abe taught himself to read and write. By the age of 17 Abe was working for local farmers. In 1830 his family moved to Illinois. Abe was a good speaker. In 1834 he decided to get into politics. He ran for the Illinois State Legislature and won. Abe then became a lawyer while he was in the state legislature. He opened his own law office. Abe ran against Stephen Douglas for Senator and lost. Two years later in 1860 they both ran for President. They wanted no slavery in the new states, but did not want to do away with slavery in those states that already had it. In the north they wanted each state to decide for itself to be slave or free. Douglas made no secret of his proslavery feelings. Lincoln won the vote by more than 500,000 votes. Lincoln became the 19th president of the United States.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The Civil War had begun due to succession of southern states from the United States. The Emancipation Proclamation changed the Civil War's focus from preserving the union to ending slavery in the United States.



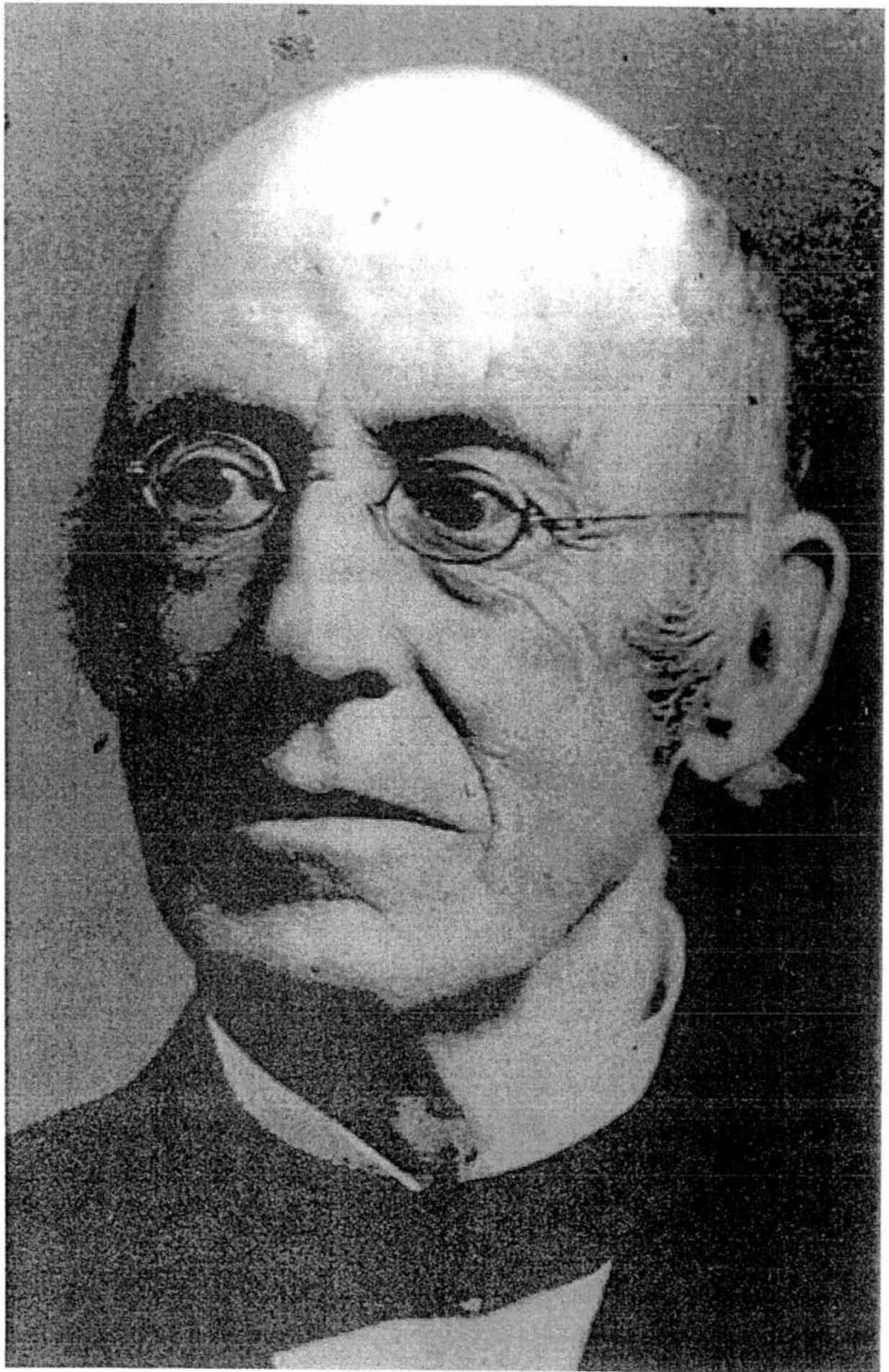
Meet Sojourner Truth. She was a slave who was freed in 1827. She began lecturing about slavery. Sojourner Truth was a forceful speaker. Many people listened to her causes. President Lincoln chose her to be a counselor to the freedmen in Washington.

You must be weary and hungry from your travels. Rest and eat, then you may be on your way. Remember to follow the drinking gourd. (cheese sticks)
trash can



Meet William Lloyd Garrison. He was an editor of a newspaper called *The Liberator* in 1831 in Boston, Massachusetts. He used the newspaper to tell Congress and the world that slavery must be abolished. Many people agreed with Garrison. In 1833, Garrison and others formed the National Antislavery Society which published books and papers about slavery.

Remember to follow the drinking gourd.



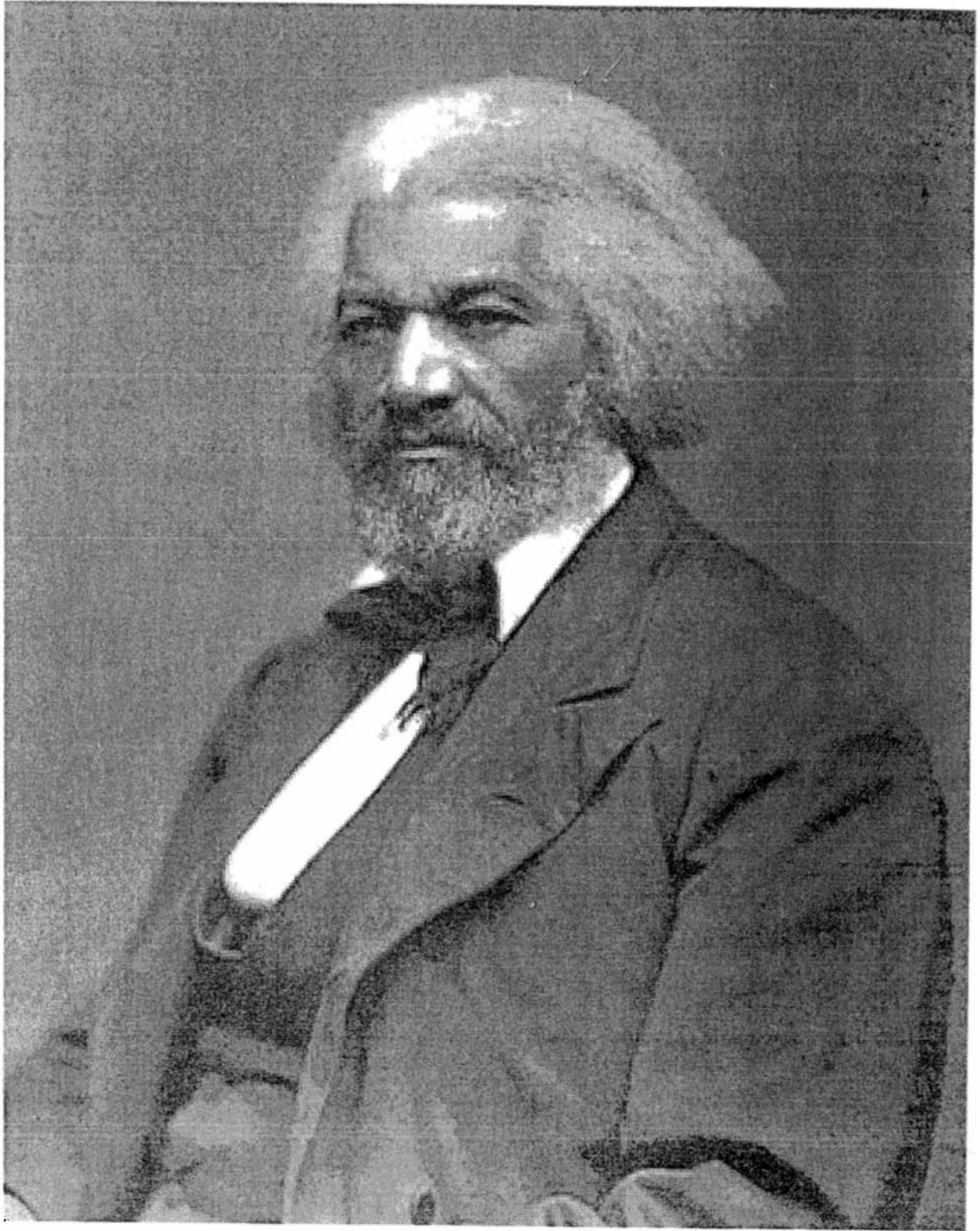
Meet Harriet Beecher Stowe. She helped Americans become aware of the life of a slave. She became aware of slavery when she visited a plantation in Kentucky. A plantation is a very large farm that used slaves to do the work. There she learned about slavery. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a book about the cruelty of slavery. The book called *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in 1852. It became a best seller in the North. The book was banned in the South. (Show a copy of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.)

Hide your slave tags and keep your heads down. It is important to not draw attention to yourself. Remember to follow the drinking gourd.



Meet Frederick Douglass. He was born a slave. He taught himself to read and write. Slave owners did not see the need for slaves to get an education. Also, they thought it could stir up trouble if slaves learned to read and write. Frederick Douglass ran away from his master, his owner. Douglas wrote and told of his life as a slave. He also gave lectures to groups of abolitionists. Abolitionists are people who wanted to abolish or stop slavery.

Hide your slave tags and keep your heads down. It is important to not draw attention to yourself. Remember to follow the drinking gourd.



Meet Harriet Tubman. She was a conductor on the Underground Railroad. A conductor is a person who led slaves to freedom. The Underground Railroad was a chain of homes and farms where escaping slaves could go for help. The chain of safe houses ran to Canada where the slaves could be free. Many ex-slaves took part in the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman guided more than 300 slaves along the Underground Railroad.

Remember it is important to not draw attention to yourself. Keep following the drinking gourd.

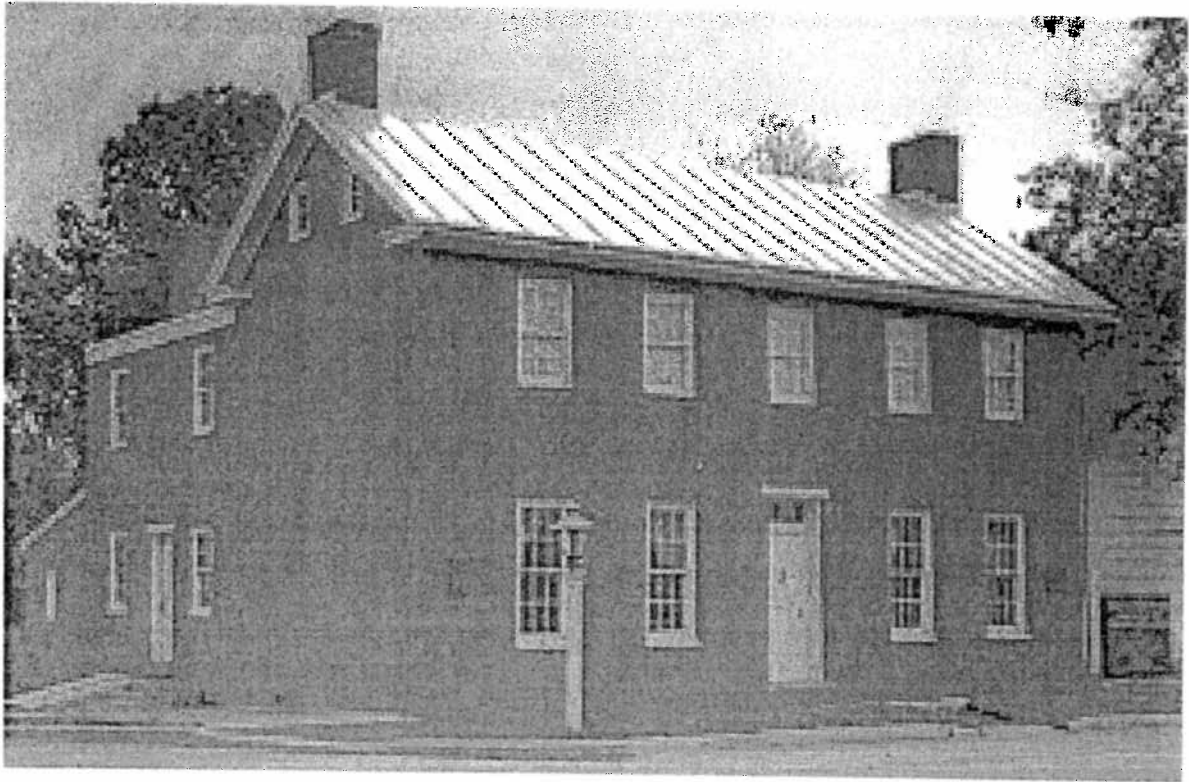


Meet Henry "Box" Brown. He hid in a box and mailed himself to an abolitionist in Philadelphia. Later he became free.

You have traveled far and the end is near. Rest your legs and fill your bellies (small jerky sticks). Then, follow the drinking gourd.

Meet Mr. and Mrs. Levi Coffin. Levi Coffin was called the President of the Underground Railroad. He was a successful merchant in Indiana. He and his wife Catharine helped thousands of slaves on their way North through Indiana to Canada on the Underground Railroad. The Coffin home was called the "Grand Central Station". He was caught in his efforts to help slaves gain freedom and paid large fines. This did not stop his efforts to help slaves, he hated slavery.

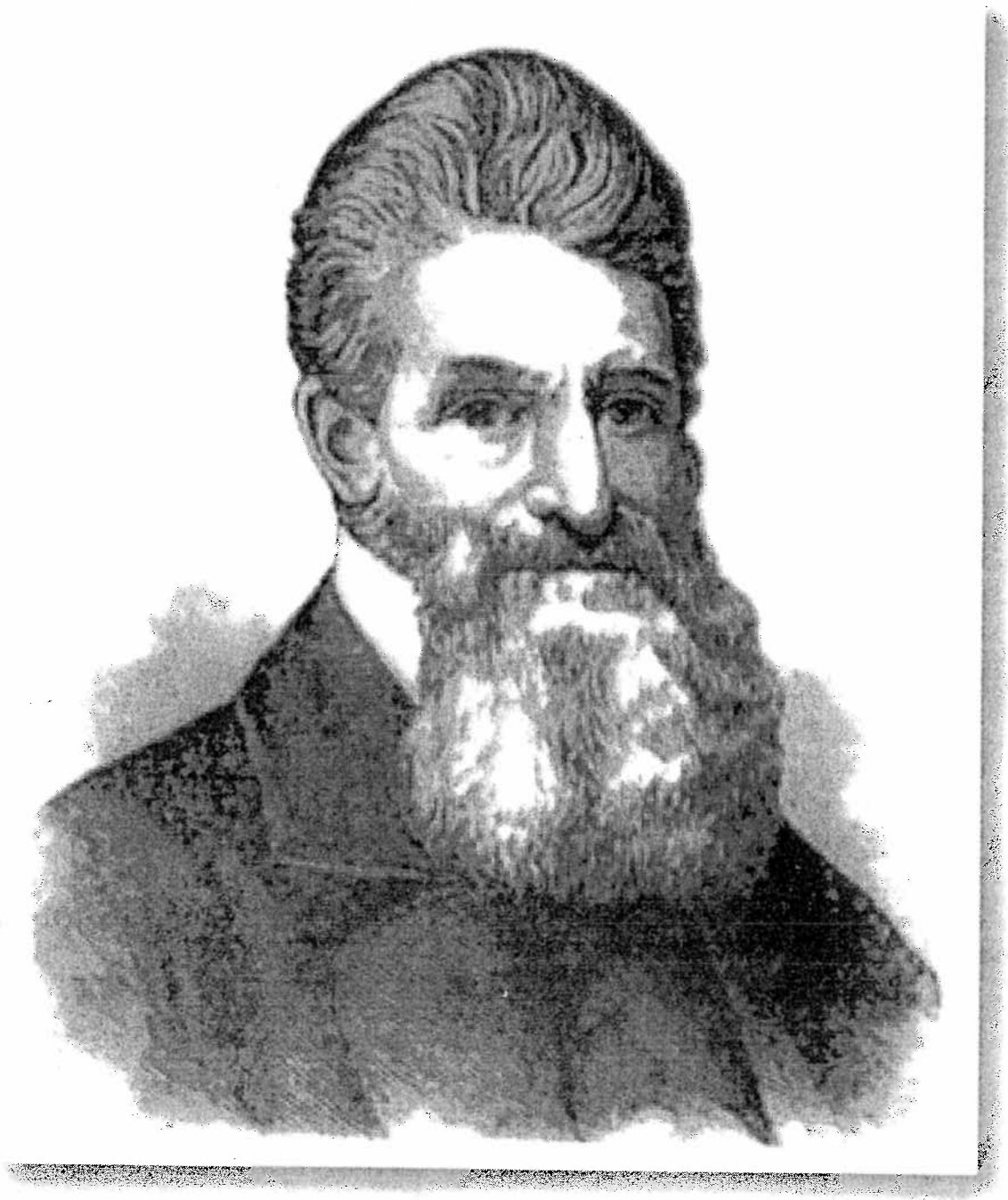
Hide your slave tags and keep your heads down. It is important to not draw attention to yourself. Remember to follow the drinking gourd.



Meet John Brown. He was an abolitionist who did not want to wait for the government to solve the issue of slavery. John Brown wanted to free the slaves by force. He thought he had been sent from heaven to free all the slaves and punish all slave owners.

In October of 1859, John Brown and eighteen of his followers took over the federal arsenal. An arsenal is the place where weapons were kept at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Brown thought the slaves in the countryside would come and help him. He thought the slaves would take the guns from the arsenal and go out and punish their masters. No slaves came. They attacked the arsenal and killed ten of Brown's men. John Brown was captured. He was tried on charges of treason and murder. He was found guilty and hanged. Many people in the North thought John Brown was a great man. They thought he had given his life to free the slaves. The Southerners though he was crazy and a troublemaker.

Freedom is just over the horizon. Follow the drinking gourd. (back to the classroom)

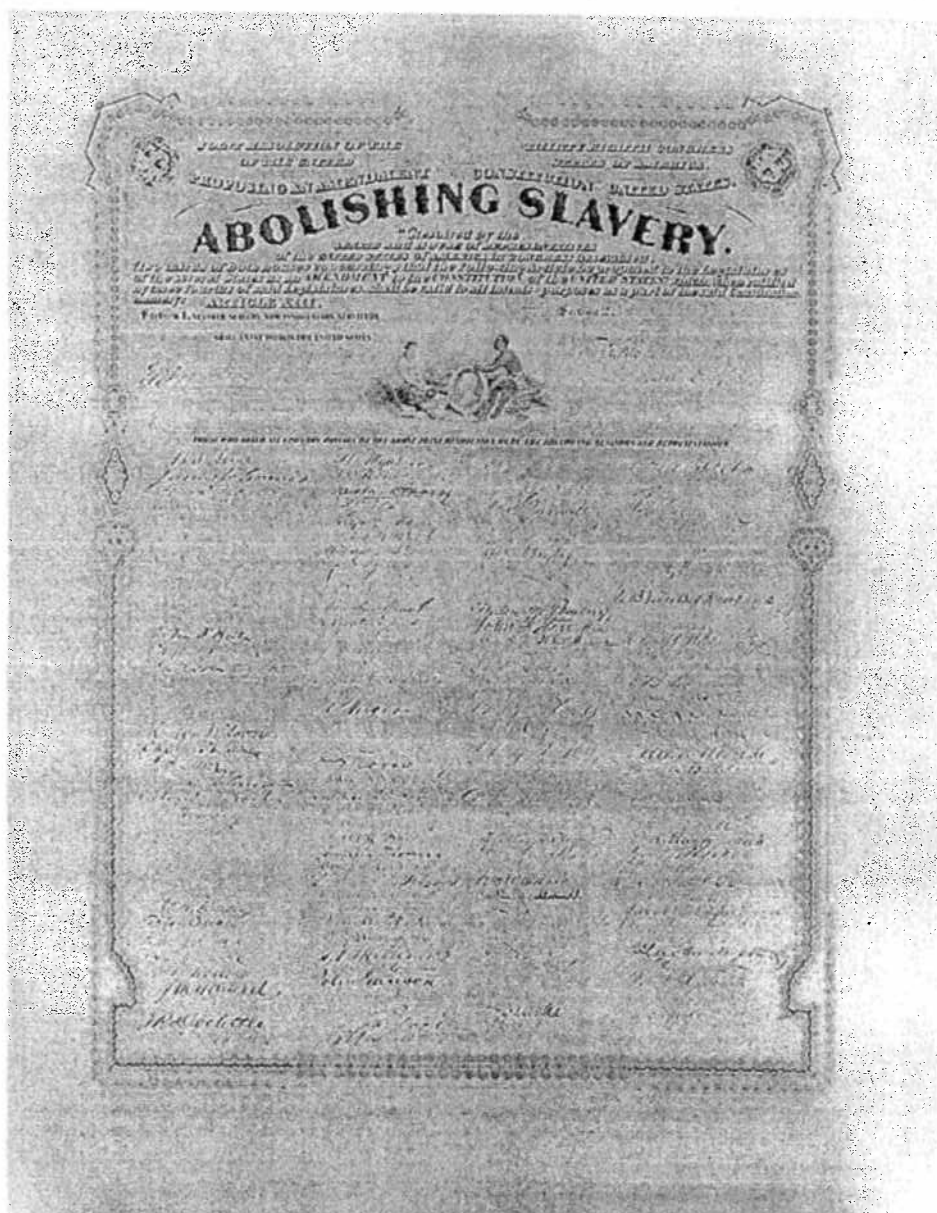


The Thirteenth Amendment

On January 31, 1865, three months before the end of the Civil War, the Thirteenth Amendment passed through both houses of Congress. It ended almost 250 years of slavery in the United States.

Design your own quilt square.

Write a letter back to your family about your travels on the Underground Railroad.

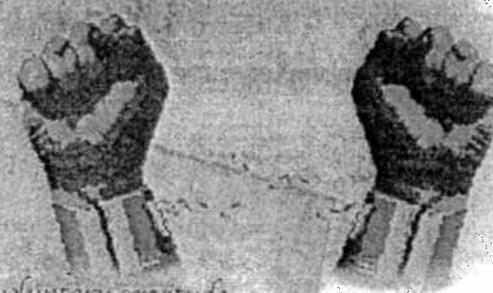


Mr. De People

Amendment XIII -

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation



Name: _____

Nine Patch Pattern

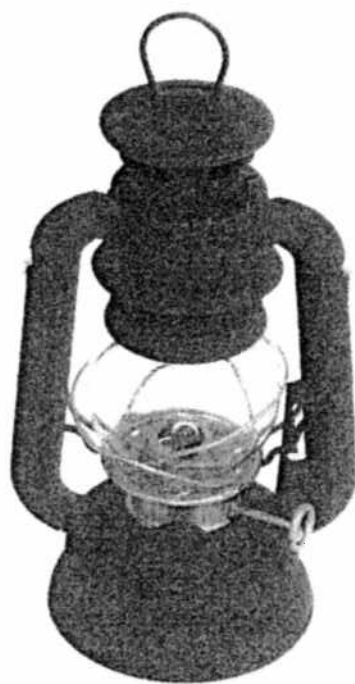
Directions: Write your name in the middle square. Then draw some things that are important to you in the other squares.

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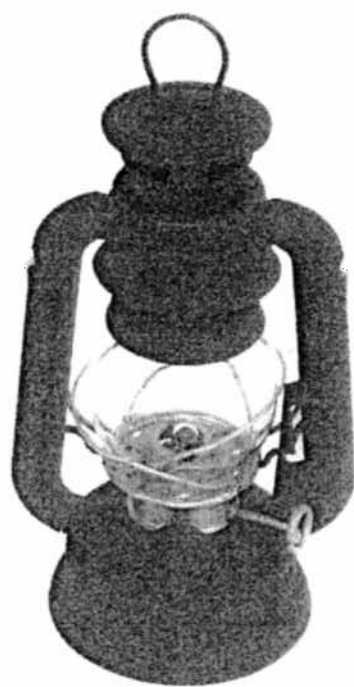
STATION

1





STATION 2





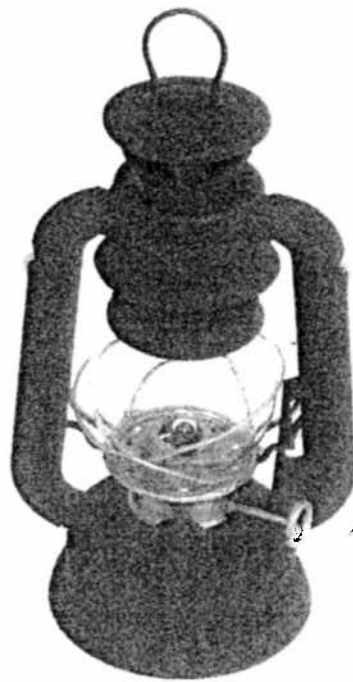
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3





STATION 4





STATION

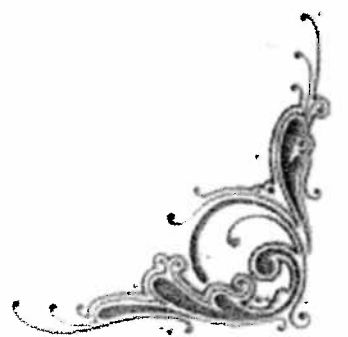
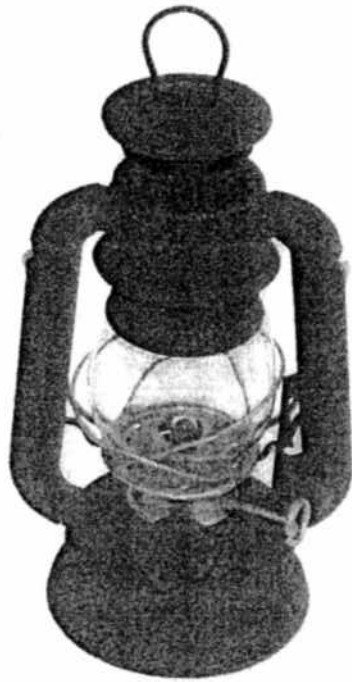
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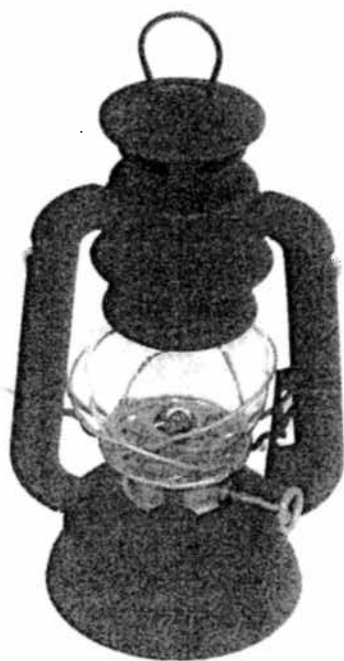
STATION

6





STATION 7





STATION

8





STATION

9





STATION 10

